

IN SENATE  
OF  
THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 2, 1818.

The Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, have considered the petition of William G. Ridgely, which was referred to them, by the Senate; and they submit the following

**REPORT:**

It appears to the committee, to be unnecessary, and improper, to pass any special law, concerning the subject of this petition. The principal reasons of their opinion, are these:

1. The case stated in the petition, is extremely general and indefinite. It presents little more, than the fact, that the petitioner purchased goods, which were forfeited to the United States; entertaining an expectation, that the forfeiture would not be enforced.

2. The petition is not supported by the proofs, which would be requisite, to establish any equitable or meritorious claim to relief.

3. If the goods were American property, the owner may have relief, under the "Act directing the Secretary of the Treasury to remit certain fines, penalties and forfeitures, therein mentioned."

4. If the goods were not American property, the owner may obtain relief, from the Secretary of the Treasury, under the law, by which the forfeiture was incurred; if upon a full exposition of all the facts, it shall appear, that the forfeiture ought to be mitigated or remitted.

The Committee, accordingly recommend a resolution, that the prayer of the petition be refused.